

Building a Prosperity Blueprint: *Real Targets – Measurable Results*

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“All great things are simple, and many can be expressed in single words: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.”

Sir Winston Churchill

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Current PC Caucus Policies

Inventory of Current Policies

In addition to providing opposition to the current government, as the Manitoba Official Opposition, PC Caucus is responsible for providing credible alternative policies as the “government in waiting”. To this end, the PC Caucus has put forward a number of policy commitments in advance of this policy process. These are as follows:

- Reverse the illegal PST tax hike by reducing the PST from 8 percent to 7 percent within the first term of a Progressive Conservative Government.
- Restore Manitobans’ right to vote on major tax increases.
- Immediately repeal the \$600,000/year taxpayer funded “Vote Tax” subsidy to political parties. A subsidy PC Manitoba has consistently refused to accept, the only political party to do so.
- Immediately raise the Employment and Income Assistance rental allowance rates to 75% of median market rents.
- Increase in the basic personal income tax exemption to the national provincial average within the first term.
- End the hidden tax hikes imposed on Manitoba families every year, known as “bracket creep”, by indexing income tax brackets to inflation.
- Institute a comprehensive regulatory review to reduce government red tape and regulatory burden of businesses and community organizations.
- Institute a 1-for-2 culture on future government regulation that will target the repeal of two old regulations before implementation of any new regulation.
- Introduce a requirement of “return on investment” economic evaluation on all proposed strategic infrastructure investments.
- Negotiate Manitoba participation in the New West Partnership.
- Immediately launch, in partnership with the public service, a comprehensive expenditure review to evaluate return on investment and program outcomes across all departments of government.
- Protect the frontline services Manitoba families count on and guarantee no frontline civil servants will lose their jobs under a Progressive Conservative Government.

Integration of Previous & Ongoing Policy Initiatives:

This policy process is strengthened and has been developed from the foundation of a number of successful PC Manitoba policy consultations in the past. In addition, there are a number of ongoing special projects being led by members of PC Caucus on specific issue themes that will be profiled in the coming months. This includes but is not limited to the comprehensive pre-budget consultation process the PC Caucus has conducted in the past and will continue. The findings of these parallel consultations and policy development initiatives will be integrated into this process as they come forward.

About the Blueprint

Deliberative Democracy

This proposed policy process is founded on the basis of deliberative democracy. This type of democracy refutes the idea that voting in elections every four years is the primary source of legitimacy for government or the conclusion of a citizen's civic responsibilities to shape policy. It requires ongoing engagement between government and citizens not just on proposed policies, but an authentic deliberation on the reasoning behind them.

The policy process is intended to be inclusive in its approach both in respect to the ideas considered and who is engaged to bring them forward. The initial set of policy areas and related targets are introduced to begin a broad and inclusive conversation.

The policy process will reach out to a broad range of stakeholders. This inclusive approach will engage experts, community activists and the general public.

Six Policy Areas

- Bright futures for our children
- Strong, stable economy
- Smarter government
- Responsible resource development
- Patient-first healthcare
- Safe and secure communities

Common 5 Year Timeframe

For simplicity and in order to create a common timeframe between all groups each are understood to be measureable and achievable within a target 5 year period, unless otherwise specified. This does not prohibit targets from being met earlier, but rather establishes a common maximum period for measurable results.

Three Questions for Every Manitoban

Question One: Are the targets the right targets?

Question Two: What are your best ideas on how to achieve these targets?

Question Three: Are there any policy areas or targets we should add?

Bright Futures for our Children

Both government and individuals have a responsibility to build an environment where all of our children have a real opportunity to reach their full potential. We must work together to provide stability and a foundation for life long opportunity from early childhood through to their full participation in the job market. Their bright future is the best guarantee of Manitoba's bright future.

Proposed Targets:

- Enhance graduation rates across all communities with educational attainment standards above the national median for kindergarten to grade 12 students.
- Decrease the gap in student success from underperforming communities with lower graduation rates and attainment standards by 25% every 5 years.
- Achieve results within the top 4 provinces in Canada as measured by the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA).
- Increase the number of apprenticeship seats, community college participants and on the job training days by 10% throughout Manitoba.
- Within two years, design and implement an improved system that protects children within CFS and other public care.
- A 10% increase in youth participation in the arts, fitness, leadership and community volunteerism.

These are our proposed ideas, what are yours?

Question One: Are the targets the right targets?

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Question Three: Are there any policy areas or targets we should add?

(Directions on how to provide your submission today can be found on page 10)

Strong, Stable Economy

The security and stability of the health and social services Manitobans count on begins with a robust and growing provincial economy. It is the people and businesses of Manitoba, not their government, who pay for these services through the wealth and prosperity they generate from their own drive and initiative. As Manitobans succeed, we lessen our dependence on federal transfer payments and the instability and risk to essential services created by overreliance on transfer payments. Government can best support this drive and initiative by creating a competitive economic environment.

Proposed Targets:

- Economic growth that exceeds expected core government spending increases and allows for scheduled payments to restore the fiscal stabilization account and reduce Manitoba's debt.
- Make Manitoba a "have" province through decreased reliance on federal transfer payments.
- Private investment in small, medium and large business by 2 percent above inflation each year.
- Create a master plan for economic development opportunities in Northern Manitoba.
- Narrow the gap in take-home wages compared to Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC.
- 25% reduction in time lost due to excessive red tape for business.

These are our proposed ideas, what are yours?

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Smarter Government

Manitoba is fortunate to have a professional public service dedicated to serving the people and providing good return on investment to taxpayers. However, like many of our resources in this province they have not been provided the context to reach their full potential. A genuine partnership between government leadership, the public services and the people of Manitoba is the best way to guarantee smarter government, superior service delivery and value for money for our tax dollars.

Proposed Targets:

- An engaged, empowered and accountable civil service providing world class essential services.
- Develop a system of establishing performance targets for all government programs with timely reviews against those targets in order to revise, refocus or replace programs that are not meeting performance objectives.
- Reduction in partisanship and improved protection to guard the independence of Manitoba's public service.
- Request the Auditor General refine the methodology and repeat the ethics in government survey contained in the 2014 report every three years and achieve a 5 to 10 point improvement across all indicators.
- Improved government service performance with a 10 percent reduction in complaints to Manitoba Ombudsman and a 25 percent increase in positive resolutions.
- Improved access to information rights for Public Utilities Board and other non-partisan oversight boards and committees to serve and protect Manitobans from inappropriate political influence.
- 25 percent increase in governance training for those serving on community boards.
- 25 percent reduction in time lost due to excessive red tape for community and not-for-profit organizations.

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Responsible Resource Development

Individuals and government have shared the responsibility for the stewardship of the natural resources of our great province. This is best demonstrated when government partners with local stakeholders and producers, those most directly related and reliant on their local environment.

Proposed Targets:

- Reduction of boil-water advisories by 50 percent.
- Bring Manitoba back to top 10 world ranking in exploration and mining.
- A 10 to 15 percent increase in productivity and value generated from renewable resources sector with an equivalent increase in waste reduction and environmental efficiencies.
- Province-wide water management program with buy-in by 80 percent of municipal governments.
- Reduce energy consumption as a percentage of gross domestic product.
- Increase agricultural crop related economic development from production and processing by 20 percent.
- Increase livestock related economic development from production and processing by 50 percent.

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Patient-First Healthcare

Our front line health care providers work hard in a challenging environment to deliver critical services to Manitoba families. They are doing their part. These front line providers and the Manitobans who rely on them are being failed by a lack of leadership and the judgement necessary at the highest levels to set targets to support patient-first healthcare, increase efficiency and allocate the resources necessary for superior outcomes.

Proposed Targets:

- A patient-first approach to smarter and more coordinated care with measurable performance standards, accountability and continuous improvements.
- A broader spectrum of available senior care options, quickly and efficiently matching evolving care needs with appropriate resources, facilities and support services.
- Meet national standards for ambulance offload times of 50 minute maximum.
- Reduce unnecessary visits to emergency rooms by 20 percent.
- 20 percent reduction in the number of patients leaving ERs without being seen.
- 25 percent decrease in mental health patients who fall through the cracks.
- Improve rankings in provision of sustainable, accessible healthcare to top 5 provincially and top 10 internationally.
- Reduce lifestyle-related illnesses by 10 percent.

These are our proposed ideas, what are yours?

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Safe Communities

Truly safe communities are only possible through close collaboration between communities, government and those offenders who have taken responsibility for their actions. Calling on other levels of government to take action is not enough; we must improve the efficiency of our justice system. We must serve and support the victims of crime and ensure government and offenders themselves provide appropriate restitution. For those offenders who have committed to rehabilitation, the programs and support must be there to allow them to act on that choice while in custody and in the community. We do this understanding the best support we can provide to victims is to reduce violent crime and recidivism so they are not victimized in the first place.

Proposed Targets:

- 10 percent reduction in violent crime.
- Get cases to court quicker – 15 percent reduction in delays for indictable offences.
- 25 percent increase to supports for victims of crime.
- Increase programs for those in provincial jail by 20 percent.
- Reduce number of known gang members by 15 percent.

These are our proposed ideas, what are yours?

Question One: Are the targets the right targets?

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How to Participate

The targets contained in this document are provided with the intention to start an inclusive and collaborative conversation that reaches out to every corner of this province. Your ideas and your willingness to share your opinions, research, support and constructive criticisms will be the determining factor on whether we can develop a policy blueprint that is equal to the potential of our great province.

You can join the conversation in the following ways:

a) Online

Early in this process we will launch the Blueprint website at www.policyblueprint.ca. This online resource will provide opportunities for Manitobans to provide their ideas and feedback from simple initial impressions to substantial research submissions.

b) By Mail

A template feedback form has been provided in Appendix 1 to encourage and assist the submission of hardcopy feedback for those who prefer this option. You can mail your submission to the following address:

Progressive Conservative Caucus
Room 227, Legislative Building, Winnipeg MB
R3C 0V8

c) Upcoming Consultations

To maximize inclusion and collaboration the process will involve a number of local meetings in communities across Manitoba as well as stakeholder meetings with experts and advocates. The scheduling of these consultations will be an ongoing process unfolding over the spring, summer and fall of 2014. Consultations will also include reaching out to those who have provided online or hardcopy submissions to engage and seek clarification where necessary.

Appendix 1: Submission Template

Contact information

Name:

Organization (if applicable):

Email:

Telephone:

Mailing Address:

☐ I would be interested in participating in upcoming consultations or being contacted for additional information or clarification.

General Feedback Template: Three Questions for Every Manitoban

(A template for detailed single target specific feedback is provided on the next page.)

Question One: Are the targets the right targets?

Question Two: What are your best ideas on how to achieve these targets?

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Target Specific Feedback Template

(Please complete one of the following for each of the targets you would like to provide detailed feedback.)

1. Policy Area:

2. Proposed Target:

Is this an appropriately ambitious target for this policy area? (please circle one)

- a) about right
- b) not ambitious enough
- c) too ambitious

What suggestions can you make or special considerations can you raise that would help us successfully addresses this proposed target and meet the objective?

Are there places where you have seen your suggestions work? If so, where?

Are there experts and resources that you can direct us to? If so, who?

Please mail your submission to the following address:

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Room 227, Legislative Building, Winnipeg MB
R3C 0V8

Thank you for your submission.